

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday April 4, 2017

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:28 pm on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Dot Stillinger and Township Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer and Don Travisano.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2017 and January 2018 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings including the Land Use Subcommittee, join the discussions and participate in projects.

APPROVED DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2017 AND JANUARY 2018  
February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 13, July NO MEETING, August 1, September 12 (to avoid Labor Day weekend), October 3, November 14 (to avoid Election Day), December 5, and January 9 (to avoid New Year's weekend).

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the March 7, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Frank Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:31-7:40) - S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.  
Possible Sustainable points for recertification 2018: Municipal carbon footprint, community school gardens. Newly acquired action for 2017 "Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance", will consider achieving for 2018 recertification.

#### WORKDAY 2017

Workday to spread woodchips, clip brambles and pick up minor trash on the Hillside Trail on the former Averett property on Hillside Ave. Date: Sat. April 22 Time: 9 am-1 pm. Rain /shine. Task list assignments completed.

Workday for 2018, may revert back to Passaic River.

WEBSITE REVIEW F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster.

#### VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

Volunteers continue to work on trail improvement and cleanup of dump. Projects are available for Scouts and other service groups. The goal is to extend the trail, possibly marking features for a nature walk, from Green Village Road to the Kirby meadow, and finally to create a loop trail around the meadow.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Block 18, lot 92. 2-22-17. Tanglewood Wastewater Treatment Plant (WPCP No. 1) Upgrade. Application to NJDEP for GP #2. Activities will include the installation of new headworks and modifications to the mixing system at the Plant as well as a 30' x 30' gravel pad and access drive to service a future cellular tower and parking lot/driveway improvements. **PENDING.**
- Block 140, Lot 2.02. 7 Loantaka Lane North, KJB Builders. 12-14-16. Application to Board of Adjustment for a variance for maximum size of an accessory structure where 150 ft is allowed and 408 is proposed.

Would add a significant amount of impervious cover in an area with wetlands and mounded septic systems. Application approved. **CLOSED**.

- Block 144, Lot 50, 446 Green Village Road, April 1, 2016, Mads & Sari Jepsen. Application to Board of Adjustment. Reconstruct dwelling using the existing foundation; will comply with 35 foot height limitation but variances needed for proposed 3 stories where 2 ½ stories is allowed. Incomplete on 5/6/16. This is the currently unoccupied house on Green Village Road adjacent to Loantaka Brook at the intersection with Britten Road previously owned by R. Gunn. CTEC has submitted several letters to the DEP about this property concerning exceptional resource wetlands and the required 300' stream buffer. **PENDING**.

#### REPORTS

- Water Quality Subcommittee – P. Gallagher, Chair.

- Event 1: Thursday, March 16 - (Policy) panel discussion on how the new Presidential administration/EPA appointments will shape national Drinking Water policy and how quality specifications are set for old and new contaminants. Commission members congratulated Peter on a job well done! About 30 people attended. See March 19 editorial in the Chatham Courier. **CLOSED**

The remaining events schedule for the year are:

- Event 2: a Saturday in June - (Infrastructure) tour of the NJ American Water treatment plant in Short Hills or

(Technology) panel discussion on drinking water quality, what are contaminants of risk today, technology available to filter your water (similar to the 2016 event)

- Event 3: TBA, two or three weeks before the election - (Policy) panel discussion on the NJ Governor Election and EPA and NJDEP positions on environment/drinking water quality. Representative from the NJDEP will begin the event with a short discussion about what they do for state regulation and changes to drinking water quality.

- ANJEC training day on March 25

P. Gallagher, C. Feeser and D. Stillinger attended environmental commissioner training.

- EC new Facebook page C. Feeser is heading the project. Cara setup the Environmental commission Facebook page and gave a tutorial of the page.

- Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee. Chair - C. Feeser, Cara is meeting with athletic clubs to discuss pesticides on fields. Also, arranging a pesticide informational presentation to the township committee to discuss health issues to children, water quality and resources. Karen Swartz will advise meeting date. The Chatham schools do not use any pesticides on lawns or playing fields. Use of pesticides at schools is regulated by the state (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcp-ipm.htm>). A "Safe Playing Fields Act" (S541) has been introduced. A local group is considering taking action on pesticide reduction. CTEC URGES RESIDENTS TO CONSIDER USING FEW AND ONLY ORGANIC PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS.

- Planning Board D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.

The Planning Board has been directed by the Township Committee to investigate whether or not the skate park area should be designated "an area in need of redevelopment." Frank Banish, Planning Board professional planner, will prepare a report. There will have to be a public hearing before the Planning Board determination. "Before proceeding to a public hearing on the matter, the planning board shall prepare a map showing the boundaries of the proposed redevelopment area and the location of the various parcels of property included therein. There shall be appended to the map a statement setting forth the basis for the investigation." Also note section 40A:12A-40 of the attached document "Local Redevelopment and Housing Law" (40a\_12a\_1) regarding payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) by the redevelopment agency.

- Open space Committee – Chair Cara Feeser – Looking at potential properties to purchase for open space preservation.

- Communications Committee F. Esposito, Chair. - Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito.

- Recycling Committee F. Esposito, Chair
  - A resident inquired about plastic grocery bag recycling. Recycle bags at supermarkets not in your recycling bins, Frank will advise.
  - Currently the trash compactor at Tanglewood which is being provided to the Township by the MCMUA at no extra cost to the town, has not been installed. It would replace all but one of the dumpsters. Without weekly pickup Tanglewood is the option many people will use. Twp Liaison Karen Swartz will follow up and advise.
  - Reviewed Tonnage report.
  - New township recycling coordinator – Christy Tragno, DPW Department. Frank will continue to attend recycling meetings as an alternate.
- Community Education and Outreach Committee. F. Esposito, Chair.
  - CTEC receives several e-mails every day. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages.
- Invasive Species Subcommittee M. Palmer, Chair
  - Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. (<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>).
 Infestations throughout the U.S. and Canada have killed tens of millions of ash trees since 2002. The Township model conservation easement document does allow limited control of invasive species.

#### NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Dot Stillingner will work on annual report for Township Committee.
- CTEC now has a consolidated office located in the municipal building.
- New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer.
- Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, hit Map and use the i tool. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer. Search for more detailed information about a lot at <http://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/MCTaxBoard/>. Use Microsoft Internet Explorer for both.
- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area and former Kirby tract? Nash Field to Green Village Road?

#### RECENT LETTERS SENT

- February 2017. Second memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a development application on Club Road concerning excessive tree removal and requesting a conservation easement on a downslope area.
- January 2017. Two memos to NJDEP urging care on delineating wetlands and granting permits on two properties, one on Loantaka Lane South and one on Green Village Road. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a development application on Club Road concerning excessive tree removal and requesting a conservation easement on a downslope area.

#### EVENTS

- Thursday, April 6, 2017. 7:30 PM, Chatham Township Committee meeting. Recognition of volunteers. Please try to attend and dress for a photo op.
- Wednesday, June 21, 2017. 2017 Sustainable Jersey Summit, <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/events-trainings/2017-new-jersey-sustainability-summit/>. 8:30-4:30

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:00

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary

